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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP ART UNIT 1626

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/762,006 Confirmation No.: 6539  
Applicants/Inventor: Hans-Jörg EIBL, et al.  
Filed: February 1, 2001  
TC/A.U.: 1626  
Examiner: Stockton, Laura  
Attorney Docket Number: 2923-123  
Customer No.: 6449

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 29, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as indicated below and on the following pages. This Amendment is being submitted in response to the September 29, 2003 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Action was originally due December 29, 2003. A check for the three-month extension of time, extending the due date to March 29, 2004, accompanies this Amendment and thus, the reply is being timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

DO NOT ENTER  
4/6/04